

- **Delete paragraph [0029] at page 5.** (The changes are shown explicitly in the attached "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made.")

**In the Claims:**

Please add the following new claims:

*Sub*  
*AS*

29. (New) A control method for an equipment service vehicle  
having a plurality of input devices and a plurality of output devices,  
comprising:  
(A) determining desired output states of a first subset of said  
plurality of output devices based on I/O status information stored in an I/O  
status table, said determining step being performed by an interface  
module that comprises said I/O status table, said interface module being  
coupled to a first subset of said plurality of input devices and said first  
subset of said plurality of output devices, said interface module being  
further coupled to a plurality of additional interface modules by way of a  
communication network, said plurality of additional interface modules  
being coupled to a second subset of said plurality of input devices and a  
second subset of said plurality of output devices, said I/O status  
information stored in said I/O status table including input status  
information pertaining to input states of said first subset of said plurality  
of input devices and input status information pertaining to input states of  
said second subset of said plurality of input devices;  
(B) controlling said first subset of said plurality of output devices  
in accordance with said desired output states, said controlling step being  
performed by said interface module; and .  
(C) maintaining said I/O status table, said maintaining step being  
performed by said interface module, said maintaining step including  
(1) acquiring said input status information pertaining to  
said input states of said first subset of said plurality of input  
devices,

26 (2) storing said input status information pertaining to said  
27 input states of said first subset of said plurality of input devices in  
28 said I/O status table,

29 (3) acquiring, from said plurality of additional interface  
30 modules by way of said communication network, said input status  
31 information pertaining to said input states of said second subset of  
32 said plurality of input devices, and

33 (4) storing said input status information pertaining to said  
34 input states of said second subset of said plurality of input devices.

1 30. (New) A method according to claim 29, wherein each of  
2 said plurality of additional interface modules broadcasts I/O status  
3 information, and wherein said acquiring step (3) comprises receiving said  
4 broadcasts.

1 31. (New) A method according to claim 30, wherein said  
2 broadcasts occur asynchronously.

1 32. (New) A method according to claim 30, wherein each of  
2 said plurality of additional interface modules maintains respective  
3 additional I/O status tables, and wherein each of said plurality of  
4 additional interface modules receives said broadcasts and stores I/O status  
5 information received in said broadcasts to maintain said respective  
6 additional I/O status tables.

1 33. (New) A method according to claim 32, wherein said I/O  
2 status table and said respective additional I/O status tables store  
3 substantially the same I/O status information.

1        34. A control method for an equipment service vehicle  
2 comprising:

3        (A) providing a vehicle power distribution and control system,

4            (1) wherein said vehicle power distribution and control  
5 system comprises (a) a first plurality of input devices, a second  
6 plurality of input devices, and a plurality of additional input devices,  
7 (b) a first plurality of output devices, a second plurality of output  
8 devices, and a plurality of additional output devices, and (c) a first  
9 interface module, a second interface module, and a plurality of  
10 additional interface modules,

11            (2) wherein said first interface module, said second  
12 interface module, and said plurality of additional interface modules  
13 are connected by way of a communication network,

14            (3) wherein said first interface module, said second  
15 interface module, and said plurality of additional interface modules  
16 are distributed throughout said vehicle and are locally placed with  
17 respect to respective ones of said plurality of input and output  
18 devices,

19            (4) wherein said first interface module collects data from  
20 said first plurality of input devices and distributes power to said  
21 first plurality of output devices,

22            (5) wherein said second interface module collects data  
23 from said second plurality of input devices and distributes power to  
24 said second plurality of output devices, and

25            (6) wherein said first I/O interface module comprises a  
26 first I/O status table and said second I/O interface module  
27 comprises a second I/O status table;

28        (B) repetitively performing the following steps at said first  
29 interface module during operation of said first interface module, including

30 (1) acquiring input status information from said first  
31 plurality of input devices, said input status information pertaining to  
32 input states of said first plurality of input devices,

33 (2) storing said input status information from said first  
34 plurality of input devices in said first I/O status table,

35 (3) determining desired output states for said first plurality  
36 of output devices,

37 (4) storing output status information pertaining to said  
38 desired output states for said first plurality of output devices in said  
39 first I/O status table,

40 (5) controlling said first plurality of output devices in  
41 accordance with said desired respective output states,

42 (6) broadcasting, over said communication network, said  
43 input status information pertaining to said input states of said first  
44 plurality of input devices to said second interface module and said  
45 plurality of additional interface modules,

46 (7) broadcasting, over said communication network, said  
47 output status information pertaining to said desired output states of  
48 said first plurality of output devices to said second interface module  
49 and said plurality of additional interface modules,

50 (8) acquiring, by way of said communication network,  
51 input status information pertaining to input states of said second  
52 plurality of input devices and output status information pertaining to  
53 output states of said second plurality of output devices,

54 (9) storing, in said first I/O status table, said input status  
55 information pertaining to said input states of said second plurality  
56 of input devices and said output status information pertaining to  
57 said output states of said second plurality of output devices,

58 (10) acquiring, by way of said communication network,  
59 input status information pertaining to input states of said additional

60 plurality of input devices and output status information pertaining to  
61 output states of said additional plurality of output devices, and

62 (11) storing, in said first I/O status table, said input status  
63 information pertaining to said input states of said additional plurality  
64 of input devices and said output status information pertaining to  
65 said output states of said additional plurality of output devices; and

66 (C) repetitively performing the following steps at said second  
67 interface module during operation of said second interface module,  
68 including

69 (1) acquiring said input status information from said  
70 second plurality of input devices, said input status information  
71 pertaining to input states of said second plurality of input devices,

72 (2) storing said input status information from said second  
73 plurality of input devices in said second I/O status table,

74 (3) determining desired output states for said second  
75 plurality of output devices,

76 (4) storing said output status information in said second  
77 I/O status table, said output status information pertaining to said  
78 desired output states for said second plurality of output devices,

79 (5) controlling said second plurality of output devices in  
80 accordance with said desired respective output states,

81 (6) broadcasting, over said communication network, said  
82 input status information pertaining to said input states of said  
83 second plurality of input devices to said second interface module  
84 and said plurality of additional interface modules,

85 (7) broadcasting, over said communication network, said  
86 input status information pertaining to said input states of said  
87 second plurality of input devices to said second interface module  
88 and said plurality of additional interface modules,

89 (8) acquiring, by way of said communication network,  
90 said input status information pertaining to said input states of said

91 first plurality of input devices and output status information  
 92 pertaining to output states of said first plurality of output devices,  
 93 (9) storing, in said second I/O status table, said input  
 94 status information pertaining to said input states of said first  
 95 plurality of input devices and said output status information  
 96 pertaining to said output states of said first plurality of output  
 97 devices,  
 98 (10) acquiring, by way of said communication network,  
 99 input status information pertaining to input states of said additional  
 100 plurality of input devices and output status information pertaining to  
 101 output states of said additional plurality of output devices, and  
 102 (11) storing, in said second I/O status table, said input  
 103 status information pertaining to said input states of said additional  
 104 plurality of input devices and said output status information  
 105 pertaining to said output states of said additional plurality of output  
 106 devices.

# REMARKS

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested. New claims 29-34 have been added.

In response to the Notice of Omitted Item(s), the Applicant hereby accepts the application as filed (and does not elect to take action pursuant to options I or II). In this regard, the Applicant notes that the description of Fig. 24 in paragraph 29 of the application corresponds to the discussion in paragraph 199 of the application. Before filing the application, it was determined that a separate figure to discuss the subject matter contained in paragraph 199 was not needed, and therefore no Fig. 24 was filed. However, Applicant inadvertently neglected to delete the reference to Fig. 24 at paragraph 29 of the application. Accordingly, the specification has been amended to delete this reference.